

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BEIRUT 04874 261927 Z

71

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 AID-20 IGA-02 ACDA-19 IO-12 CIAE-00

PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01

PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 RSR-01 /133 W

----- 041113

R 261523 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1860

DIA

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 4874

1. BEGIN SUMMARY; GOL AWARE OF DANGER OF FEDAYEEN
ACTIVITY AGAINST ISRAEL IN CONNECTION 25 TH ANNIVERSARY
CELEBRATION, INCLUDING INCREASED EFFORTS INFILTRATE INTO
ISRAEL FROM LEBANON FOR PURPOSE SABOTAGE. AS YET WE HAVE
NO INDICATION HOW NEW GOVT WILL REACT TO SITUATION.

)3?-;3 3 8,53))8&3;,:3 974:3 ?3)83;3 ' ARAFAT MAKING
CONSIDERABLE HEADWAY IN CONSOLIDATING HIS CONTROL OVER
FATAH AT EXPENSE OF HIS RIVALS. END SUMMARY.

2. ISRAELI AIRCRAFT BROKE SOUND BARRIER OVER BEIRUT
SERVERAL TIMES MORNING APRIL 26 IN WHAT APPEARS BE CLEAR
WARNING TO FEDAYEEN AND GOL AGAINST FEDAYEEN ACTIVITY
AGAINST ISRAEL. SONIC BOOMS STIRRED UP CONSIDERABLE
APPREHENSION IN BEIRUT AND, WE IMAGINE, AMONGST FEDAYEEN
SINCE Wafa ISSUE OF APRIL 25 HAD ALREADY WARNED ISRAEL
WAS ABOUT TO ATTACK AGAIN. LEBANESE ARMY SEES THIS
WARNING AS LINKED WITH PRESS CONFERENCE BY FEDAYEEN
RECENTLY CAPTURED IN ISRAEL AFTER INFILTRATING FROM
LEBANON, AND WITH STRONG LIKELIHOOD OF CONTINUING FEDAYEEN
EFFORTS INFILTRATE ISRAEL AND TAKE OTHER ACTION TO
INTERFERE WITH ISRAEL'S TWENTY- FIFTH ANNIVERSARY CELE-
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PAGE 02 BEIRUT 04874 261927 Z

BRATION. WE ARE TOLD BY VERY RELIABLE SOURCES THAT BOTH FONMIN ABOUHAMAD AND NEW DEFENSE MINISTER FOUAD GHOSN APPRISED ON APRIL 26 OF DANGERS INHERENT IN SITUATION, PARTICULARLY WITH RESPECT FEDAYER, IT NOW APPEARS THAT THE ADMINISTRATION WILL FALL SHORT OF THE NECESSARY TWO- THIRDS VOTE. THE PRESIDENT' S " NATIONAL ACCORD" COULD AT MAXIMUM MUSTER EIGHTEEN VOTES IN FAVOR. WITH " FRENTE AMPLIO" OPPOSITION ALREADY DECLARED, POSITION OF OPPOSITION SENATOR FERREIRA' S " POR LA PATRIA"- ROCHA MOVEMENT COALITION IS DECISIVE FACTOR IN SENATE' S DECISION. FERREIRA' S GROUP HAS YET TO MAKE KNOWN ITS ATTITUDES BUT WITH SIMILAR ACTION PREVIOUSLY THREATENED AGAINST FERREIRA HIMSELF AND PRESIDENT OF DEPUTIES, GUTIERREZ RUIZ (A " POR LA PATRIA" SUPPORTER), WE DOUBT THAT NECESSARY THREE VOTES WILL BE FORTH- COMING. FOR THE MOMENT, WE ALSO DO NOT BELIEVE THAT REFUSAL BY SENATE TO LIFT ERRO' S IMMUNITIES WILL NECESSARILY PROVOKE MAJOR CONFRONTATION BETWEEN MILITARY AND CONGRESS. INDICATIONS ARE THAT MILITARY WISHES TO KEEP PRESSURE ON CIVILIAN POLITICAL SIDE BY MOVES OF THIS TYPE, BUT IS NOT SEEKING TO USE THEM AS PRETEXT FOR FORCED CLOSURE OF CONGRESS OR OTHER SEVERE MEASURES. ORTIZ

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